



Phelps Research Area in North Colebrook, Connecticut. The 394-acre Conservancy preserve is the site of several on-going scientific research projects including a breeding bird census and a study of the effects of the 1976 tornado. Photo by George Bellerose.

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MELLON FOUNDATION DONATES \$25 MILLION FOR WETLANDS

On January 12, Conservancy President William D. Blair, Jr., announced that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has received the largest grant ever given to a conservation organization by a private foundation. The Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh made the extraordinary gift to help the Conservancy initiate the National Wetlands Conservation Project. TNC will match the amount through fundraising, and the total will be available as loans to qualifying Conservancy projects.

In addition to being the largest grant of its kind, the gift comes at a crucial time. The federal government has diminished its role in land acquisition, and the President has made clear his belief that the private sector must assume more of the burden. The timely alliance between the Mellon Foundation and the Conservancy is tangible evidence that we will do our share.

Connecticut may benefit from the Mellon grant. In two years our scientists have identified 25 unprotected critical areas. Three are wetlands and may qualify for Mellon funding. But the quality of our proposed projects must equal or exceed that of other Conservancy projects across America since they will compete for loans from the same fund.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total projects	2,947	294
Total acres saved	1,881,598	13,434
Members	143,000	5,300
Corporate Associates	382	23



National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

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From the Land

WINTER/1983

Published for the members of
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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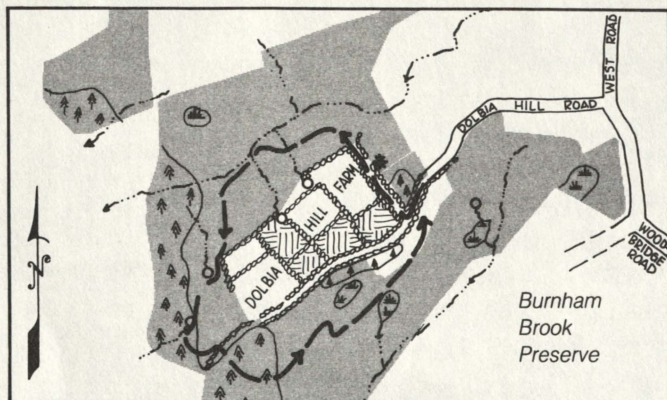
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MARCH HIKE IN EAST HADDAM

The snows will have melted, we hope, by early March. Pack a lunch and come hiking with Dr. Richard Goodwin, Professor Emeritus of Botany from Connecticut College. He will guide us through the lovely Burnham Brook Preserve, highlighted in Susan Cooley's *Country Walks in Connecticut*.

The two-hour walk will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 5. You are invited to picnic at the Goodwin house afterwards. Please call the office (344-0716) by February 25 if you would like to attend, and we will mail you a map and directions. We will limit the group to 20 persons.



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To protect the known critical natural areas of Connecticut, the Chapter must raise \$3 million. We seek a leadership grant of \$1 million. With it and other capital monies, and with the internal line of credit represented by the Mellon grant, we will continue to save the best of America's wild lands.

While this is not a request for funds to protect Connecticut's 25 critical areas, we do hope you will continue to respond to our spring and fall appeals for operating monies. Meanwhile, the Chapter trustees and I will continue to work quietly toward finding a leadership grant. We pledge to continue making your regular contributions work hard to maintain the quality of life in Connecticut.

W. Kent Olson
Executive Director

CORPORATIONS SUPPORT CHAPTER

A number of corporations, alert to the need to identify and preserve our state's remaining critical habitats, support the work of the Conservancy. Twenty-three Connecticut-based companies are now Corporate Associates who give annually toward the national General Fund. A portion of each national contribution comes back to the Connecticut Chapter for local use. In addition, several Connecticut companies give directly to our Chapter as Corporate Contributors or Corporate Sponsors.

CORPORATE ASSOCIATES (\$1,000 and up):

Aetna Life and Casualty Company
American Maize-Products Company
AMAX Foundation, Inc.
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CORPORATE SPONSORS (\$500 and up):

Kaman Corporation
Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTOR (\$250 and up):

Hartford National Bank and Trust Company

TRADE LANDS GIFT RECEIVED

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Houston of Middletown, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C., have donated two properties in Middletown. By agreement with the donors, the sites will be sold and the proceeds applied to land acquisition in Connecticut. The expected yield is in six figures. We extend our deepest thanks to the Houstons.

Trade lands gifts to the Connecticut Chapter support the protection of biologically important lands. Tax consequences of a trade lands gift are similar to those for gifts of natural lands. Please write for details.



Connecticut Chapter trustees at The Nature Conservancy's 1982 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. (left to right): Dr. and Mrs. Richard Goodwin; Mr. and Mrs. William Ross; Peter Cooper, Oak Leaf winner; Alexander Gardner, Chairman.

\$60,000 DONATED BY CAROLYN AND EDGERTON FOUNDATIONS

The Carolyn Foundation of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has contributed \$35,000 to the Chapter, and the Edgerton Foundation of New Haven, \$25,000. The money will help initiate a comprehensive program to protect 25 critical natural areas across the state, sites the Conservancy has been investigating for two years. Chapter Secretary Peter B. Cooper said, "The generosity of the Carolyn Foundation will enable us to bring on the additional staff necessary to multiply our already noteworthy output of lands preserved in perpetuity. The Edgerton gift will be directly applied toward land acquisition or other capital needs."

Said Ken Olson, Executive Director, "Thanks to the Carolyn and Edgerton Foundations we can now begin the most important land-saving effort—bar none—ever undertaken in Connecticut by any non-profit group or public agency. We're looking at a price tag of probably \$3 million, and we are organizing now to get a leadership gift of \$1 million. The grants are dedicated to helping us save the 25 sites in the most efficient possible manner."

A previous grant from the Carolyn Foundation enabled the Chapter, and its able partner The Conservation Law Foundation of New England, to establish the highly successful Connecticut Land Trust Service Bureau.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"Stewardship" is the Conservancy's term for the management of preserves. Throughout TNC stewardship is essentially a volunteer activity.

Nationwide there are about 5,000 volunteer Conservancy preserve managers. They work in each state under the guidance of a professional land steward. Organized into committees, these volunteers safeguard the "elements of natural diversity" of each preserve. Committees concern themselves with questions of public access, defense against encroachment, preserve expansion through additions—many such matters.

Stewardship volunteerism saves the Conservancy a great deal of money. Providing paid management for all our preserves would be prohibitively costly and would doubtless bring land acquisitions to a halt. But maintaining the volunteer system is much more than saving costs. Our management system is simply the most effective way to achieve our protection goals because the philosophy of local citizens looking out for local lands works best. The neighbors of a preserve are most qualified to judge the impact of local land policies or community concerns. They are the best Conservancy public relations presence. And only local citizens can take such unglamorous but necessary actions as, for example, stopping some neighbor's kid from riding a motorbike over a Conservancy trail.

In Connecticut, our preserve management system starts with Associate Director Susan Cooley, Chapter land steward. She is assisted by a volunteer stewardship committee made up of Chapter trustees and scientists. There is also a volunteer legal committee.

But most important are the members of our preserve management committees: 600 volunteers managing 60 preserves throughout Connecticut. Without their generous gifts of time and effort, our Chapter couldn't function. Their continued effectiveness is a "given" in all Conservancy plans for growth and success. They are a vital part of a nationwide system of volunteers whose efforts make possible the Conservancy's remarkable achievements.

Everywhere Conservancy land acquisition goes on at an accelerating pace. Our organizational commitment is to preserve acquired lands "in perpetuity," and the use of this phrase implies an assumption—an act of faith, really—that there will always be, throughout succeeding generations, a growing body of concerned citizens who subscribe to the Conservancy's goals. Judging by our present Connecticut volunteers, I think this faith is well placed.

Alexander S. Gardner
Chairman

CHAPTER'S NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Individuals contributing \$1,000 or more in membership dues become *LIFE MEMBERS* of The Nature Conservancy. The following became life members in 1982:

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey N. Bairstow	Mrs. Roy E. Larsen
Mr. Edgar O. Bottler	Mrs. Johanna C. Plaut
Sandra Boynton & James McEwan	Mrs. Ella B. Ryder
Mr. & Mrs. Mark H. Dall	Mrs. Paul van der Stricht

Donors of natural land, conservation easements, perpetual interests in natural areas, or irrevocable deferred gifts are recognized as *HONORARY MEMBERS FOR LIFE*. Since our last publication of the list, this honor was conferred on the following:

Imre & Thomas Cholnoky	John & Barbara Kashanski
Mrs. Dorothy B. Foote	Mrs. Sadie Sporn
Mr. William L. F. Gildersleeve	

LTSB HANDBOOK REPRINTED

The Land Trust Service Bureau (LTSB) has reprinted its popular *Connecticut Land Trust Handbook*. The Conservancy and the Conservation Law Foundation of New England, co-sponsors of the project, are grateful to the Aetna Life and Casualty Company for printing this second run. Authors Suzi Wilkins and Roger Koontz will be working on further additions and revisions to the *Handbook* during 1983, and holders of the manual will automatically receive these inserts. Copies are now available through the Chapter office for \$14.95 (including postage).

The Service Bureau has received a \$4,000 grant from the New Haven Foundation for its work in the greater New Haven and lower Naugatuck Valley areas. LTSB plans to work with local land trusts, town commissions and citizens' groups to enhance land conservation—along the

Quinnipiac River, in the urban areas of New Haven and cities in the Valley, and with Water Company lands.

In addition, the LTSB will be holding several meetings and workshops throughout the year to benefit the 82 local Connecticut land trusts.

CHAPTER'S NEW ACORNS – 1982

Individuals become an Acorn by donating \$100 or more annually supplemental to membership dues.

Mr. Gifford Agnew	Mr. Bernard Luskin
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Angoli	Mr. and Mrs. James T. McCabe
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Barclay	Mr. Alan H. McLean
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Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lincoln	Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Whittlesey
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Loeb	Mrs. Nathaniel Wolf

Our gratitude also goes to the many members who renewed their support as Acorns in 1982. Connecticut Acorns now number 226.

COUNTRY WALKS IN CONNECTICUT

A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves

by Susan D. Cooley

PRESERVE GUIDE ORDER BLANK

- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of *Country Walks in Connecticut: A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*.
- ☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
- Non-Members—\$8.47 per book
- Members—\$7.40 per book
- Prices include 7½% Conn. sales tax and \$1.00 postage/handling.

Name _____

Address _____

Please send order form and check to The Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter, P.O. Box MMM, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, CT 06457.



photos by George Bellerose
maps by Nora Hennessy Rolston
published by the
Appalachian Mountain Club and
The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter
217 pages, 4½" x 7", soft-bound
field guide for hikers, canoeists,
birders, ski tourists

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